

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25-30 and 32-38 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 25 and 32 have been amended, and claims 21-24 and 31 have been canceled. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-24 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,706,712 to Tischer et al. By this Amendment, claims 25 and 32 have been placed into independent form in accordance with the indication in the Office Action (paragraph 4) that these claims would be allowable if rewritten as such. In addition, claims 21-24 and 31 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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